



To: Members of the Senate State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee
From: City of Commerce City
Date: Jan. 23, 2013
RE: SB 13-035 – Prohibit Red Light Camera Vehicle Identification

YOUR “NO” VOTE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED ON SB 13-035

Description

SB 13-035 repeals the authorization for municipalities to use automated vehicle identification systems to identify violators of traffic regulations and issue citations based on photographic evidence, and creates a prohibition on such activity. **Commerce City opposes this legislation** due to its negative impact on local control and municipal home rule.

Rationale

In 2009, Commerce City approved red-light safety cameras to create safer streets for the public and curb dangerous red-light running. In August 2010, the city placed its only red light camera into service at the U.S. 85/SH 2/60th Avenue/Parkway Drive intersection.

The seven-legged intersection is one of the worst in the metro area, with an average daily traffic count of 56,000 vehicles. Its obsolete design and high volume of semi-truck traffic makes traditional enforcement nearly impossible. In the two years prior to installing the camera system, the city saw 65 accidents at the intersection, mostly rear-end and front-to-side impacts.

The red light camera system is one of many law enforcement tools necessary to ensure the safety of the Commerce City community. By using the system at the city's worst intersection, the police department has reduced accidents and more importantly, alter driver behavior to prevent such incidents from happening. These reductions would not be possible with traditional enforcement mechanisms.

Results from 2011 to 2012

- The total number of accidents at the intersection declined by nearly 44 percent.
- Front-to-side impacts were reduced by 57 percent.
- Rear-end accidents declined by 25 percent.

During this time period, the city issued 16% less violations. The city attributes this to positive change to driver behavior and the oversight of police personnel in reviewing potential violations, conservatively applying the ordinance with the intention of reducing accidents. Without the availability of this technology, it would be difficult to ensure public safety at this dangerous intersection.

The City Council of Commerce City respectfully urges all members of the committee to vote “NO” on SB 13-035.

For more information: Mizraim Cordero, intergovernmental relations manager, 303-227-8839 or mcordero@c3gov.com.

7887 East 60th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022